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## THE MICHIGAN SCHOOLMASTERS' CLUB, 1897-8

### THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING

THE twenty-ninth meeting of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club convened in the University School of Music, Ann Arbor, Friday, November 26, 1897, with President S. O. Hartwell, of Kalamazoo, in the chair. The programme began with a paper on "Chemistry in the High School. What? Where? How?" by Mr. Richard Putnam, of the State Normal College. The discussion was opened by Mr. E. T. Austin, of Saginaw, who was followed by Miss E. A. French, of Detroit, and Mr. G. O. Higley, of the University of Michigan. An interesting informal discussion followed, participated in by several members, including Mr. B. W. Peet, of the Grand Rapids High School, and Mr. D. M. Lichty, of the University.

The general topic of the afternoon session was "The Biological Sciences in the High School," which opened with a paper by Professor F. C. Newcombe, of the University. Professor Munson, of Hillsdale College, opened the discussion. He thought no other line of studies so well served as a means for cultivating observation as biological studies. Botany, as being attractive to the unobserving, has its place—a high one. Professor Newcombe had emphasized the time spent in preparation for teaching botany. Less than two years will not give sufficient grasp of the subject to enable a teacher to fit the course to the power of students. The teacher must have tact in questioning. The necessary line of questions differs largely from the kind of questions asked in other subjects. Morphological work should be the basis of systematic work. The latter has no place in the high school. Experiments may include work on foods, solutions, chemical processes in germination, etc., and observations on *Drosera* and *Saracenia*, and fer-

tilization by insects, etc. The capable teacher may modify the text-book; nay, must do so. Choice of work must depend on environment and equipment.

Professor Barnes, of Wisconsin University, said that perhaps the small high school was doing the best it could, but that cannot be said to be satisfactory. *A laboratory can be secured, of a simple kind at the least.* If a school board is constantly pushed, the laboratory is bound to come, sooner or later, if the board is convinced that the teacher knows what he wants and will persist in seeking it. Many teachers appeal for facilities in a half-hearted way, and as though they were a kind of luxury. We do not want to work for an average high school, and let that set the pace. We want to reach for something better, for the ideal that is higher.

In the evening Professor Barnes gave a very interesting address on "Observational Science in the High School."

The Saturday morning session opened with a paper on high school electives by Principal Smith, of Pontiac. The subject was continued by Principal Harris, of Bay City. A very lively discussion followed, led by Professor D. B. Waldo, of Albion College, who was followed by Superintendent Thompson, of Saginaw, Principal Volland, of Grand Rapids, Principal Crittenden, of Ypsilanti, Superintendent Coburn, of Battle Creek, and Superintendent Bemis, of Ionia.

Professor Kelsey, of the University, moved the appointment of a committee to investigate the contents of the many excellent public libraries of the state on the various subjects of the school curriculum, and to report as to the best means of inducing use by the schools of this material. The committee was constituted as follows: Principal Harris, Bay City, chairman; Miss A. D. Clarke, Kalamazoo, English; Professor F. C. Newcombe, University, Science; Professor A. C. McLaughlin, University, History; Miss Margaret Cook, Detroit, Modern Languages; Professor D. E. Smith, State Normal, Mathematics.

At the business session, Principal Volland, chairman of the nominating committee, reported the following nominations for

officers for the ensuing year, and on motion the retiring president cast the ballot of the club, electing them as nominated: President, E. C. Goddard, University; vice president, Mrs. Florence Milner, Grand Rapids High School; secretary, Dr. David E. Smith, State Normal College; treasurer, Superintendent L. S. Norton, Jackson. Additional members of the executive committee: Principal W. H. Smith, Pontiac High School; E. T. Austin, Saginaw E. S. High School.

The amendment proposed at the spring meeting was carried, providing for separate officers for secretary and treasurer hereafter. Notice was given that at the next spring meeting an amendment would be proposed relative to the number of meetings per year to be held by the club, and to the time of elections. The treasurer was instructed to send to all members in arrears for dues a statement of their account.

On motion of Principal Harris a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of having but a single session of the club each year, and to report at the next meeting of the club. The committee consists of the president and Professor Hinsdale, of the University, Superintendent Brown of Pontiac, Professor D'Ooge, of the Normal College, and Principal Warriner, of Saginaw.

The last session of the club was devoted to the subject: "What should the subject of physics contribute to the education of the high school pupil?" Professor J. O. Reed, of the University, read the paper. The discussion was opened by Superintendent Bemis, of Ionia, and continued by Mr. F. A. Osborn, of Olivet College.

The attendance on the club was smaller than usual, a fact deplored by some, and by others considered of no particular moment, for a small meeting now and then gives better opportunity for general interchange of view and sober expression of opinion. There was a very general feeling, however, that it had been a mistake to give the programme so nearly over to one subject, and so to attract only those interested in that subject. Only science men had been specially drawn to this meeting. It

was noticeable that the informal discussions of this meeting were more generally participated in than in any recent meeting of the club. The session adjourned finally, Saturday, November 27, at 4 P.M.

E. C. GODDARD, *Secretary*

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### THE THIRTIETH MEETING

So FAR as can be judged from the degree of interest aroused and the number of seats filled, the most successful meeting of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club yet held opened its session at Ann Arbor on Friday, April 1, 1898. The increased attendance was due in part to the rich conference programmes provided and to the fact that the meeting was in conjunction with meetings of the Classical Conference and the Michigan Academy of Science. A "joint session" was held in Newberry Hall on Friday morning, opened by Mr. Geo. B. Aiton with a paper, "Principles underlying the making of courses of study for secondary schools."<sup>1</sup>

Friday and Saturday afternoons were given up to conferences in the classics, modern languages, English, history, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and botany. Reports of these conferences will appear in subsequent numbers of the SCHOOL REVIEW. Friday evening a recital of ancient music was given in University Hall, by the Faculty of the University School of Music. This was followed by a most enjoyable reception in the gymnasium, tendered to all visiting teachers by the acting-President and Faculty of the University.

A general session of the club was held Saturday morning at which was discussed "High School Management," with respect to *Morals*, by Miss Florence Barnard, of Mt. Clemens; with respect to *Athletics*, by L. P. Jocelyn, of Ann Arbor; *Social Life*, by Mrs. Florence Milner, of Grand Rapids; followed by a

<sup>1</sup> Published in full, pp. 369-378. For abstracts of the other papers of this session, see pp. 458-467.

general discussion by Superintendent S. B. Laird, of Lansing; H. H. Frost, of Detroit, and James Leroy, of Detroit. The "Function of the Schoolmasters' Club" was discussed from the point of view of the *High School*, by Principal E. C. Warriner, Saginaw; from the point of view of the *Private School*, by Frederick Whitton, Detroit; from that of the *Normal College*, by Professor E. A. Strong, of Ypsilanti; and from that of the *University*, by Professor B. A. Hinsdale, of Ann Arbor.

Superintendent Hugh Brown, of Pontiac, presented the report of the committee appointed in November to consider the advisability of holding but a single meeting a year. The question was further discussed by Superintendent S. B. Laird, of Lansing; Professor J. O. Reed, of Ann Arbor; and Superintendent A. E. Curtis, of Adrian. It was moved and carried that the present plan of two meetings a year be continued. An amendment, noticed at the previous fall meeting, was passed, changing the time of the election of officers from the fall to the spring meeting. Professor E. A. Strong, of Ypsilanti, chairman of the nominating committee, made the following recommendations for officers of the Club for the ensuing year, for whom the president was instructed to cast the ballot:

President, E. C. Warriner, Saginaw, E. S.; Vice President, Mrs. Florence Milner, Grand Rapids; Secretary, W. H. Sherzer, Ypsilanti; Treasurer, L. S. Norton, Jackson; Member of Executive Committee, W. D. Baker, Battle Creek; Member of Executive Committee, A. E. Curtis, Adrian.

W. H. SHERZER, Secretary.

YPSILANTI, May 2, 1898.